Pressure for Curtailment of I.P.R. Transition Period

1832. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many countries have to far ratified the Uruguay Round Pact on GATT.

(b) whether some G 7 Group countries are pressurising, before ratification for curtailment of transition period for Intellectual Property Rights; and

(c) whether Government is mobilising the support of the Developing countries to resist such pressures?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Twenty countries had indicated their definitive acceptance of the Uruguay Round results at the Marrakesh Ministerial Conference. Thereafter, five others hae announced that their domestic ratification procedures have been completed.

(b) and (c) The G—7 has not taken up multilaterally the issue of the curtailment of the transition period under TRIPS. Hence, the question of mobilising support of developing countries does not arise. Bilaterally, however, the U.S.A. has raised this issue with India.

Payment of CCS to Public Sector Companies

1833. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Foreign Trade has not issued orders for payment of CCS to various public sector exporting companies whose claims arose prior to 2nd July, 1991;

(b) whether in some cases auditors had raised objections;

(c) whether these objections have not yet been clarified; and

(d) if so, the acts and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Govt. have issued clear instructions that CCS is to be paid by the Regional Licensing Offices to all entitled categories of exporters, on exports made upto 2.7.1991.

(b) to (d) Only in one case of a public sector undertaking objections have been raised by Audit authorities, regarding restricting the CCS payable by applying cut-off point of 25 percent of value added or using imported raw materials and components. The Audit Authorities have already been requested to drop audit objection, on the basis of clarification provided to them.

Licence to Private Mine Owners to Export Iron Ore

1834. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed private mine owners other than MMTC to export Iron Ores from Goa and Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the same facilities have been proposed for Orissa and Bihar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Export of iron ore, except iron ore of Goa and Redi Origin and concentrates/pellets produced by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), is canalised through MMTC. Iron ore of Goan origin is allowed for export directly to Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, China and Europe and iron ore of Redi Origin is KIOCL is allowed to export its products, viz., iron ore concentrates and pellets, directly to all markets.

(b) No such decision has been taken so far.

(c) Taking into account the need to conserve high grade ore for domestic use, the aim is to maximise export earnings.

Indo-China Border Trade

1835. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any reports have been received or assessment made of the resumption of Indo-China border trade through the Shipkila pass in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far the opening of this traditional route of Sino-Indian trade is likely to boost the trade and commercial activities in the remote areas of Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) which are the items which will be imported from China and exported to that country as a result of the resumption of Indo-China border trade after a gap of 32 years and which of the items falling under the convention on international trade in endangered species are likely to be traded between the two countries and how this will be regulated by Himachal Pradesh Government ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). A report has been received from Deputy Commissioner, Kinnaur District dt. 18th July, 1994, informing about the resumption of Indo-China Border Trade through Shipkila Pass on 16-7-94. The report informs that 21 traders carried their merchandise items on 27 loaded mules across the Border from the Indian side. No Trader crossed into India from the Chinese side. Local arrangements at the Indian Trade Mart are also in place.

(c) Opening of Border Trade is expected to give a boost to trading activities on either side of the Border at Shipkila.

(d) Import and export through Shipkila Pass is as per the existing provisions of the Exim Policy. In addition provisions of Public Notices dated 17th July, 1994 (No. 33) and 20th July, 1994 (Notice No. 5), have been issued listing out the items which are allowed to be imported and exported freely on Border Trade with China. The list of items for Import are: Wool, Goat Cashmere (Pasham), Goat Skins, Sheep Skins, Yak Tails, Goats, Sheep, Yak Hair, Horses; Salt; Borax, Szaibelyite, China Olay Butter and Silk.

Import of Goat Skins, Sheep Skins and Yak Tails, Goats, Sheep, Yak Hair and Horses will be subject to the provisions of convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and any other laws for the time being in force. The list of items for export are Agricultural Implements, blankets, copper products, clothes, textiles, cycles; coffee. tea, barley, rice flour, dry fruit; Dry and Fresh Vegetables, vegetable oil, gur and misri, tobacco; snuff, cigrattes, canned food; agro-chemical, local herbs, dyes. spices, watch, shoes, kerosene oil, Stationery, Utensils, Wheat (Ua and Black).

Trade with Vladivastak (Russia)

1836. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Times of India dated 27th May, 1994 that a 12-Member high powered trade delegation from Vladivastak (Russia) had shown keen interest in the expansion of trade and bilateral relations with India during their recent visit to India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. A 12-member trade delegation headed by Mr. Gennadiy G. Tokulenko, Deputy Governor of Primorya Region visited India from 24—29 May, 1994, on